

# HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants  
A Historical & Genealogical Society  
of Central West Virginia  
Volume XXIV, Issue 4, 2005-2006



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### **Manuscript Submissions**

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September issue and mid-October for December issue.

### **Membership**

For HCPD membership information, see the Membership  
Form in back of Journal.

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Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;  
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Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The HCPD office is closed on National, State, and Local  
Election Days  
and on the following holidays:

Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day,  
Thanksgiving weekend, Dec. 23, 2006-Jan. 1, 2006

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## From the DESK

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## Of the DIRECTOR



Autumn has arrived here in Lewis County. According to the Department of Natural Resources our leaves have reached 70% of their peak color. It's a great time for a drive in the country. We have had a really great summer here at the Library with many visitors from all around the country. Lots of folks have been stopping by our Library to research and look for information in their quest to find their roots.

The Stonewall Jackson Jubilee is behind us. As I said in the last issue, this is our largest fund raising event during the year and requires the participation of lots and lots of folks. I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of those who helped in any way to make the Jubilee a success. Both our book sales and sarsaparilla sales went quite well and helped us earn funds for our budget for this coming year.

Now we are preparing for our Annual Roast Beef dinner which will probably be over by the time you read this. There is never a dull moment around the Library as we are always planning for the next event even before we get the current one done.

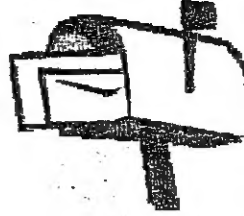
A reminder to all that dues are now due. Our membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. There is a letter and renewal form enclosed with this issue of the Journal so if you have not renewed your membership, please do so as quickly as possible. We don't want you to miss any discussions on the HCPD-List, your ability to access the Members Only files, or the next issue of the Journal.

As we head into the holiday season, a quick reminder that the Library will be closed for Election on November 7, for Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 23 through Saturday, November 25 and for Christmas from December 24 through Monday, January 1. If anyone is going to be in the area during any of these holiday times and would like to research, please e-mail us at [hcpd@hackerscreek.com](mailto:hcpd@hackerscreek.com) ahead of time and we will attempt to accommodate your needs.

*Betty Ann*

## From EDITOR'S

## MAILBOX



Hi Joy,

Some time ago, I was able to help a member who was looking for relatives in the Colorado area -- fortunately, the location wasn't too far from my Denver area. I lucked into finding the particular cemetery and the family she was looking for. I took snapshots of the graves and headstones. Also, in several places, I was able to include both the grave and the Colorado Rocky Mountains which were so clear in the background. In addition, the local library had newspaper information, as her family was well-known in the area.

Was also able to find other graves she was looking for in a Denver area cemetery she had named. I can't begin to tell you how much fun it was - and how good it made me feel. It was the first time I realized that the "seek-and-find" process doesn't always have to be one's OWN family to get that feeling of "accomplishment". But, the really important part was how much information she was able to give me to work with - she had done such excellent research.

Being a part of HCPD has been pure "Joy" (okay, pardon the pun).-- but, sincere thanks for all the help and advice you've provided to so many of us over the years. It's been appreciated.

Sincerely, Joan (Colorado)

Note: Thanks, Joan. As a result of your response and those of others who have helped others as SEARCH ANGELS, we're going to have a regular feature about the work you and others have done to earn your "wings." We hope our readers check the next story in this issue for a story entitled, "Fox Chase." Eva Newlon earned her wings for this one!





## *A Search Angel Story!*

### **FOX CHASE**

by Eva NEWLON

**Editor's Note:** Eva HAGGERTY NEWLON has been the Saturday volunteer at the library nineteen years (yes, 19)! Except for her annual two or three week vacations and training for her work as an election worker, she has been dutiful to her responsibilities to assist those who visit the library.

Billy Joe **SEAMONE** and his wife Mary came into the Central West Virginia History and Genealogy Library in mid-June 2006 searching for his family because he was put out for adoption when he was four years old. He and two brothers, all surnamed **FOX**, were adopted in Gilmer County by John and Penelope **SEAMONE** and their surname became **SEAMONE**. The family at that time lived in Taylor County. When he was fourteen, for some unknown reason the State took all three of them away from the **SEAMONES**.

I wanted to help him but felt almost helpless as he began asking questions that I could not answer. So we began a search.

We found that the births of some of his siblings had been marked out by an order of the court. One sister, Debra Lynn **FOX**, was listed as being born in Lewis County; in the cemetery records, we found that she had died at the age of eleven and was buried beside her father at the Mitchell Cemetery. (I later learned that the **FOX** family lived almost adjacent to the Mitchell Cemetery.)

We continued our search in census, deaths records and finally began to put a lineage together.

I felt more needed to be found for this young man began by asking other HCPD members for help, on finding this **FOX** family. Joy **GILCHRIST-STALNAKER** came to my rescue telling me that she believed the family once lived in the area now encompassed by Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park and suggested that I talk to Cary Lee **WILLIAMS** who had grown up in the Roanoke area where the park is now located.

Cary told me he knew this family. A few days later, he brought me 78 pages of research and told me a story about Bill's father, Harley Preston **FOX** and his grandfather, Cary R. **WILLIAMS**.

It seems the elder **WILLIAMS** was making some spirits. Harley, who just happened to like a little nip, and a friend were on a hill watching to see where **WILLIAMS** planned to hide his brew. Cary's grandmother, Nellie Blanche **HITT**, told her husband that someone was watching from up the hill.

Grandfather **WILLIAMS** grabbed his rifle and was going to shoot; but, Grandmother grabbed the gun and said, "you will kill him."

Grandfather **WILLIAMS** then picked up his shotgun loaded with buckshot and fired. Harley carried buckshot in his face the rest of his life.

I sent Cary's research and the story off to Bill and Mary.

Prior to my meeting with them, Mary had been in our library looking for Bill's family and met Raydine **TEICHEIRA**. Raydine pointed her in the direction of one of her neighbors by the same name and perhaps a relative.

This is what we now know about Bill's family:

His parents were Harley Preston **FOX** and Edith Irene **BOYERS**. For some unknown reason, Edith left Harley with a houseful of children, in fact thirteen: Debbie, David, Frank, James, Debra Lynn, Gary, Paul, Larry, Randy, Sherry, Bill and two others.

Harley was a coal miner and his health wasn't good. He tried to care for his children, but found it was too difficult. The children were then put out for adoption, five were sent to the welfare department in Gilmer County; some were sent to the Elkins Children's home; others were adopted by families.

After leaving the **SEAMONE** family, Bill was put in a foster home with Mona **ADAMS**, who lived on Coburns Creek, in Harrison County. He lived with her for two years, then was taken in by Rick and Marsha **ADAMS**. He attended South Harrison High School where he graduated before joining the Marines.

After his tour in the Marines, he became a truck driver. Eight years ago he met his wife Mary.

Bill has been able to contact some of his brothers and sisters and is planning a visit to Gilmer County.

Bill and Mary gave me permission to share their story.



## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The following are new donations to the  
HCPD Library as of  
July 1, 2006

| SHELF #  | E   | DONOR                                 |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| CE 2C    | Harrison Co (Grant District Cemeteries)                   | Eva NEWLON                            |
| CH 12C   | Churches Trinity Wesleyan Program (Weston & Lewis County) |                                       |
| CH 15C   | Baptised on the 4th of July                               |                                       |
| CH 93    | Somerset Co NJ Churches Records, VOL 1                    | Bill & Joan PETERS                    |
| CH 94    | Mt Pisgah Baptist Association                             |                                       |
| CR 13B   | Fauquier Co VA Court Records                              | Bill & Joan PETERS                    |
| CR 41N   | Ohio Co WV Court Records,, VOL 12                         | Kenneth CRAFT, Jr.                    |
| CS 14 D2 | Lewis County 1850 Index                                   | Dorothy SIPE                          |
| CS 31E   | Harrison Co 1930 Census (Elk & Tenmile Districts)         | Eva NEWLON                            |
| FA 425C  | Hencke Genealogical Bulletin                              |                                       |
| FA 950   | Wyatt-Ballard-Smith Descendents                           | Audrey BRENNEMAN                      |
| FA 951   | Monroe County Families                                    |                                       |
| FA 952   | Linder Source Book  | Harold LINDER                         |
| FA 953   | Light Family  |                                       |
| FA 954   | Ware-Gregory-Fisher-Berry-Morrison-Meaz-Harrison-Miller   | Bill, Nettie & Diane<br>ABLES GREGORY |
| FA 955   | Jacob Chapman   | Jeannette C. RHODES                   |
| FA 956   | Descendants of Bartholomew Life (1655-1722)               | Donald BISHOP                         |
| HC 40B   | Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants Misc                    | Raymond WOLFE                         |
| HC 40G   | Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants Misc                    | Raymond WOLFE                         |
| JO 114B  | West Virginia Archives & History Archives & History       | Archives & History                    |
| JO 184A  | Tri-County Researcher Index                               | Bill HENDERSON                        |
| JO 184B  | Tri-County Researcher 1977-1985                           | Bill HENDERSON                        |
| JO 184C  | Tri-County Researcher 1986-1991                           | Bill HENDERSON                        |
| JO 184D  | Tri-County Researcher 1992-1995                           | Bill HENDERSON                        |
| JO 184E  | Tri-County Researcher 1996-1999                           | Bill HENDERSON                        |
| JO 24    | HCPD Journal VOL XLV 2005-2006                            |                                       |

|         |   |                    |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| JO 66A  | Preservation Alliance of WV                     |                    |
| LO 45D  | Our Place in History SW Preston Co.             | HCPD               |
| LR 133B | Land Marks of Old Wheeling                      | Mary GLASS         |
| LR 29   | Fairfax Proprietary Index & Other Info          | Bill & Joan PETERS |
| LR 60A  | Fauquier CO VA Land Records & Disputes          | Bill & Joan PETERS |
| LR 60B  | Fauquier CO VA Land Records & Disputes          | Bill & Joan PETERS |
| MI 144  | Path Between the Seas                           |                    |
| MI 145  | Gertrude Bright News Clippings & Writings       | Terry Kelford      |
| MI 146  | Stray Leaves from the Hillside                  |                    |
| ML 381  | Civil War Diary of Elmore Wilkinson             |                    |
| NC 57   | Hardman Family News Clippings & Writings        | Arlene HARDMAN     |
| OB 104A | Weston Democrat Obituaries 2005                 | Gerald HANNON      |
| OB 41B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (B's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 42B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (C's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 47B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (H's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 52B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (M's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 58B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (S's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 62B  | Gilmer County Obituaries (W's)                  | Doris RADABAUGH    |
| OB 73A  | Obituaries 1999 Newspaper Unknown, VOL I        |                    |
| OB 73B  | Obituaries 1999 Newspaper Unknown, VOL II       |                    |
| RF 203  | Weston City Directory 1992                      |                    |
| SC 116I | Lewisite-Jane Lew HS Yearbook 1954              |                    |
| SC 15B  | History of Education in West Virginia           |                    |
| SC 37   | Roanoke PTA 1951-1954                           | Charles KERNS      |
| SC 38A  | Little Levels HS Yearbook Echo 1924             | Bill GREGORY       |
| SC 39   | Slavery Social & Economic Aspects Prior to 1850 |                    |
| US 266A | Pennsylvania German Pioneers, VOL I             |                    |
| US 276  | Original List of Persons of Quality             |                    |
| US 277  | Divided Democracy                               |                    |
| WV 157B | West Virginia 125 Years of State Road           |                    |
| WV 326  | Roanoke Farm Women's Club                       | Charles KERNS      |

## **MINUTES – HCPD 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING**

Mary **CREAMER**, President, presided at the 25th annual business meeting of the Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants on August 12, 2006 at the Library.

Mary welcomed the members attending from the various States.

Minutes of the 2005 annual meeting as read by Secretary Eva **NEWLON** were approved as read.

Mary reported that the building loan had been paid off, by borrowing from the Lord Abbott account. Permission was granted by the committee in charge of this fund with the understanding that we would return that amount to the account. We borrowed \$8,000 and by doing so saved \$13,000 in interest. She also stated that we would hold a ceremony at Saturday evening banquet to burn the note. \$300 is deposited from the general funds into the Lord Abbott account monthly and we are not taking the interest of about \$250 out each month.

Betty Ann **NICHOLSON**, Executive Director, reported on the financial status of the organization giving each a cash flow report for October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005. The financial report was approved as presented.

She reported that the window blinds purchased when we were at the Colored School were returned to us. We were short 2 blinds of having enough for our current reading room. Eva **NEWLON** purchased the blinds needed from JC Pennys which matched the ones we had. Bertha **ALLMAN** made a banner to hang over the stage, Robin **LIGHT** made valances for the windows. Randall **NICHOLSON**, Jerry **LIGHT**, and Buck **BROWN** installed all of the above.

She reported on the books that are being worked on. May **WHITE** has almost completed indexes for the Yesteryear volumes and volunteers are in the process of typing them to make ready for sale. Also, death records from Book 8 and 9 are being indexed for publication.

Finally, after talking to several contractors, we found someone to fix the leak in the kitchen roof. In the end, the entire kitchen roof was replaced and Randall

**NICHOLSON** painted the walls. Irma **CURTIS** cleaned the cupboards.

We have received the Robert **SMITH**, Hartzel **STRADER**, and the **STALNAKER** Family Association collections. Filing cabinets are being purchased for this collections with a preservation grant from an anonymous member and her husband.

Betty Ann passed out the proposed budget for the year 2006-2007. She pointed out that every budget is a work-in-progress and provides guidelines for our expenditures and income. After a few questions on a couple of items, Cary **WILLIAMS** made a motion, with a second from Joyce **CHAMBERS** to accept the budget as presented. Motion carried.

Librarian Irma **CURTIS** reported she is working hard to get all the material in the Library. Receipt of the new collections will keep her busy.

Joy **STALNAKER** and Cary **WILLIAMS**, the audit committee, reported that the books for the fiscal year were found to be in order. Patricia **VIELLENAVE** made a motion seconded by Rosie **SHEETS** to approve the audit report. Motion carried.

Patricia **VIELLENAVE**, nominating committee chairman, presented the slate of officers and board members for the 2006-2008 term, with Mary **CREAMER**, President; Eva **NEWLON**, Vice President; Cary **WILLIAMS**, Treasurer; Audrey **BRENNEMAN**, Secretary; Irma **CURTIS**, Librarian; Joy **STALNAKER**, Editor; Randall **NICHOLSON**, Bertha **ALLMAN** and Donna **WILLIAMS**, board members.

There were no nominations from the floor and all of the above officers and board members were elected.

Mary pointed out that we are in our fourth building. Every time we moved, we thought we would have enough room for expansion; and, when we moved into this building, we knew we would have enough land for an addition to our present Library. Our space is again becoming critical. Since paying off our loan, we have begun looking to the future by starting a building fund. This fund will also help us either paint or install siding on the present building.

Eva **NEWLON** presented a model of a building also showing the present building and a proposed floor plan for a new building. Some suggestions came from Betty Ann, Mary and Joy. The model and floor plans are only a starting point. Mary asked those present to give suggestions as to what they would like to see and welcomed suggestions from our members everywhere. Suggestions should be e-mail to either [hcpd@hackerscreek.com](mailto:hcpd@hackerscreek.com), [enew109@aol.com](mailto:enew109@aol.com), or [joy@hackerscreek.com](mailto:joy@hackerscreek.com).

Melvin **TOLLEY** and his wife Wanda, have been preparing lunches for the gathering for a few years now and are asking for help in the kitchen and also help in the fall when we have our roast beef dinner.

Everyone was asked to leave their evaluations forms before leaving.

Meeting adjourned until August 2007.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva **NEWLON**, Secretary.

%%%%%%%%%

## **SWISHER FAMILY HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED**

"A **SWISHER** Family History" is being planned by Paul **PETTIT** and Boyd "Rocky" **SWISHER**. Those that would be interested in such a book and want to submit an article and picture of their family should contact them - In order to plan for the publication they need to estimate the number of people who will be participating and how much the book should be priced. Also there are probably a number of Old Family pictures out there so knowing the size and how many would be important for costing the project. This project will take about a year or more to complete. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to help with the project. Comparable books are published by the Walsworth and Donning publishing company as County Histories and Pictorials. PHOTOCOPIES of special family related pictures should be sent 28790 Ellis Ave. Romoland, California 92585-9707. For more information, contact Paul **PETTIT** [cpettit@telis.net](mailto:cpettit@telis.net).

## **Doddridge County Cemeteries**

In the spring, Betty Ann NICHOLSON received a phone call from Kathryn RHINEHART BASSETT in California in regard to the archived HCPD-L message requesting further details on locations of some cemeteries in Doddridge County. She sent along some further research. Hopefully, this will help someone.

Block House Hill - the correct name is Odd Fellows Cemetery and it's on Blockhouse Hill (hence the nickname) and it is sometimes referred to as IOOF. There is a Catholic section but it does not have a separate cemetery name, it's just called "the Catholic section".

The "cemetery" by Crystal Lake is actually 3 cemeteries:

- 1) West Union Masonic Memorial Park is the main one
- 2) Freeman Cemetery
- 3) Coleman Cemetery

The latter two are smaller old ones, and many people don't realize they are moving from one cemetery to the other. That Freeman cemetery, the funeral home calls "Freeman North" to distinguish it from the one they call "Freeman South". That Freeman Cemetery is on Wabash, where it turns into Piggan Run. So yes, your question marks on this are right - there are two.

Slightly adjacent to West Union there are two. One is Randolph Cemetery is just across route 50 on route 18 south.

The other is Archibald Cemetery that is actually in Smithburg

The funeral home guy (Spurgeon Funeral Home) also offered that the gravedigger has been digging graves for 25+ years and knows a lot. His name is Marvin Travis. Check information for his telephone number. Remember, this is Eastern time zone and you should exhaust all other avenues of finding answers before you call this man. We don't want him resenting the funeral home giving out his name.



# What Happens To Your Genealogy After You Are Gone?

by Bette BUTCHER TOPP

That is a question that I have heard so many times. We have all heard the horror stories that Great Aunt Mabel's boxes and boxes of family history had ended up in the D-U-M-P! Horrors! How could that possibly have happened? Well, no one knew what in the world to do with them.....

Could it have happened because she did not give special instructions of how she might have wanted it to be disposed? Ah yes – she probably never gave any hint to the kids or their kids and their kids and so – out it goes! [it kinda makes me sick just to think about it in the dump]

So, now it might behoove each and every one of us to make arrangements to protect this material. It took a lot of money, many stamps (in the old days), many letters, many miles of travel and certainly many many hours of work. And I for one, would not trade that and the people we met along the way, for anything.

I just feel that there is more to do. Lets face it, "I think that I shall never see – a finished gene-ology" so we know that we must face the fact that we have to plan what to do.

Just imagine those in the 'Katrina' area, who are wishing that they had made enough back-ups and spread their information around a little bit more. That can happen to anyone, we know. BUT, not if we do our job of making sure that our own information will be around in 200 years.

First, I feel we all need to put a codicil in our will saying what we want done with it OUR family history.

- Place it with one of your children, one who truly wants it and is actually interested in it.
- Place it with someone of your direct lineage.
- Place it in your favorite genealogical society. Which one?
- Place it in your historical society. Which one?
- Place it in a library. Which one? Your town or one where your ancestors lived?
- Keep in mind that libraries where your ancestors lived might want it or again, might not!

Do they have room? Does it work into their area? Is any of it in order to be placed?

Is it a genealogy computer program? Have you made CD's to update it as you went along? Have you put it on a DVD? They will last longer than CD's, you know.

Do you have a lot of pictures that are sooo important to you? Have you copied them into that computer program? Have you copied them onto archival paper?

You know someday they may not have formats to read your CD's. Is that scary? But could be .....

All of these sentences are extremely important. If not now, someday. (Unless you know something that I don't know!)

So – FIRST - lets all start making plans:

1. Start making good back-ups. Place them in a safe place or in a place other than your own residence. Remember fires, floods, tornadoes....
2. I would suggest making some hard copies in archival paper and place them around different areas – cousins, libraries, etc. You get the idea? You want to have back-ups around just in case you need to have them

NOW – there is a very important fact of which we all need to be aware. It is just this – it costs money for a society or library to get "your family material" ready for the public and it costs money just to maintain it.

How do you do this?

You write a codicil for your will. State where you want the material to be stored. AND MOST IMPORTANT – an amount of money that you wish to give as a bequest for that society or library to maintain YOUR material.

Think of it as an endowment, like in cemeteries. We bequest monies to keep the graves of our loved ones in good shape. So why would we not do the same to keep our family history in good shape?

There is a form following this article that can help guide you in your instructions. Write it any way you wish -by all means, change it to fit your own particular needs. But you need to guide those who will handle your affairs. Names of where you wish it to be placed, addresses and a contact person and above all –

A space for what ever amount of money you wish to give to do the job you want done. You worked hard to get the information to this point, so finish the job by helping keep it available for the next family historians.

You will never regret it. Trust me! I have done it and so have many researchers that I know.

I hope this has helped guide you along the way in - - - - -

Where is my genealogy going to go and what will happen to it?

About the author: Bette Butcher Topp (Mrs. John A..)

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Editor's Note: As we prepared this article, we counseled with one of our members who is an attorney. He noted that this codicil would not be binding on an estate if the estate is not probated, but did say that the accompanying codicil would be better than nothing at all, but not as good as an actual gift provision in a formal will or codicil prepared by an attorney.

### **West Virginia Humor**

A group of WV friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck.

"Where's Henry?" the others asked.

"Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied.

"You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired.

"A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"

## **Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will & Testament**

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise, it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including, but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of said materials with responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some or all of my genealogical materials.  
MEMBER OF: (List organization and contact information)

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel and money. Therefore, it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future. I further desire that a monetary gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my estate be given to the persons or organizations who accept custody of my collection.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## How We Get Started Digging In to the Past

Ask a group of genealogists what got them started digging through dusty court house records and scanning cemetery tombstones searching for Uncle Harry or a third cousin once removed, they might reply: "Aunt Maudie did this to me."

There's a variety of reasons why people dig into their family's past, but if the comments collected from a sampling of HCPD members reflect the bigger picture, most family-tree searchers don't just pick the study of family history from a list of "25 things you can do in your spare time." They are led into this time-consuming, often frustrating, sometimes rewarding effort through the influence of a relative already dedicated to digging up the family's past.

Here are some of the comments from members of HCPD's on-line network who were asked to tell how they got started doing genealogy

Ronna **CUNNINGHAM** remembers how her grandfather had an interest in family history and would go "over and over" a fan chart. "I think I was supposed to memorize what he was telling me. I was the oldest grandchild. In 1977, the mini-series *Roots* sparked my interest. My mom and her brother were orphaned in their teenage years. They had a few names and a file made by their aunt. The file was typed, erased, crossed out, and in general a mess but was their family as they had been told. I decided to prove the file right or wrong."

For Billy **CURTIS**, it was his great aunt Irma **CURTIS** who gave him the bug. "She made some photo copies of a genealogy chart and a few copies of some pictures she had, and now I am tromping through cemeteries and spending hundreds of hours per month online. Thanks to those precious pieces of initial information she shared with me, I have taken the torch and traced primary source records to places like Petite Magny, France; Threadneedle, England and County Cork, Ireland. This past year I took a Y-DNA test in an effort to finally solve the question regarding where my ancestor John **CURTIS** (b. 1792) came from. Those DNA results haven't provided a link to my particular line, but they have eliminated many lines."

Melinda **LARSON** became interested in family from her maternal grandmother who was an active DAR member until her death at age 92. "She would tell me about the family homes and cousins, siblings etc., but like others, I was just a child and had no idea how important all of her knowledge was." Melinda eventually began researching her

family for two reasons: "My husband always called me 'Irish' and I wanted to know what part of Ireland my ancestors lived; and (2) after our children were in school full time, I had the daytime hours to do some searching. When I got my first computer in the early 1990s and connected to the internet about 1995, the entire world opened to me."

There's always surprises when you dig into the past, as Nancy **MALCOMB** found out. "My mother's cousin had been working on mom's mother's side of the family for about 30 years. When I got a copy and saw how little was in there on both my mom's father's side and my own father's side of things. . . I determined to fill in the blanks. I thought it would be easy, as my grandfather was a foundling, so I thought how hard was that? And I always thought my father's family consisted of just him and his siblings, their parents, grandparents and one cousin. Didn't know his mother was one of 15 kids and his dad was one of 10."

Nancy was one of several who expressed concern about who would pick up the torch. "I have offered (my material) to everyone, and so far, no takers. When I get it all organized, I am going to burn it all to CD's and distribute a copy to everyone who has contributed to it at all. Hopefully, out of all of those CD's, one will fall into the hands of someone whose interest is caught."

Bette **BUTCHER TOPP** remembers that her mother kept her informed about her baby book and "we looked at it together many times as I was growing up. In the ninth grade, we had to do a family history. Because my family had always been so interested in their families on both sides, I was well prepared and scored a big "A" on it. I did not really get serious until we moved from our long-time home to another close town. Because I thought it would be a good way to meet new friends who had this same interest, I took my first basic genealogy class. We went on to take special classes for about three years. Then I helped found the Escondido CA Genealogical Society and decided to write an actual family history on my mother's grandmother Mary Ellen **KIDDOO FOOTE**. I then concentrated on my father's lineages. So since 1974, I have been totally addicted to this wonderful world of family genealogy and area history."

Joy **STALNAKER'S** appetite for family history was whetted during her growing-up years by her aunt. "We would sit on the big ol' wraparound porch at the **SULLIVAN** family home in Clarksburg, and she would entertain me with stories of my great-grandparents' building that house. She referred to everyone as Cousin So-and-So. During those same years, my maternal grandmother told me that I was descended from the first settler of Lewis County who was named John **HACKER**. I thought that was pretty neat! But it wasn't until 1972

when my daughter was in fourth grade that I contracted the deadly 'genealogy pox.' The teacher wanted each child to bring in 3 or 4 generations of their family if they could. I talked to my mom and learned that my grandmother had handwritten a chart of her family and my grandfather's family. The next year, my daughter built on her school project for a 4-H project. And we continued to dabble in research."

Rhonda **COWAN's** interest started because of the family's annual visits to family graves on Decoration Day. "It was at one of these that my great uncle took my hand and walked me around to each grave and told me who was who and how I was related to each. That was the start of my interest."

For Patricia **VIELLENAVE**, it all started when her husband's aunt gave her some "long descendant charts." At the time, she says, they were "just pieces of paper but she would ask me from time to time if I had learned anything new. . .until I gave in and started looking. . ." Her grandfather's death in 1970 took Patricia "back to those hills of WV as an adult, and the hills touched my soul and sent me walking around in cemeteries, learning how to research in court houses etc."

School assignments are credited with encouraging others to pursue their search into family history.

Troy **HUNTER** began research as a school project. "After reading from Alex Haley's *Roots* in English class, my teacher offered extra credit for anyone who filled out a five generation pedigree chart. I took the chart home and pulled out my Baby Book. I copied the information and discovered that there was nothing beyond my great-grandparents, so I started asking questions. My grandmother's family caught my attention. Grandma said to me: 'Let me look in the backroom.' She returned with a stack of papers that included photocopies of deeds, maps, pedigree charts and family group sheets. I got my father to take me to the Greenbrier County Historical Society and hanging out in the archives (eventually working as an intern there in high school. Now it is 19 or so years and about 35,000 names later and I am still going strong. I have also gotten many people my own age interested. When it comes to younger people, it's all about finding something specific that will interest him or her. You should never drag a kid to a courthouse, library or cemetery and expect them to have a good time or to take interest at first. For me as a kid, I was much more interested in the family secrets and conflicts than the fact that I had an ancestor who sat in the House of Burgesses."

Charlotte **FLEMING** reports that "when our daughter was in junior high, she had a homework assignment of compiling a family tree. I

had never thought much about family as my father had only one brother and my mother was the only one in her family to survive adulthood. With a lot of hesitation, we settled down to complete her assignment. We went to talk with my husband's parents and what a surprise! Several generations back, Dick and I had the same grandparents! We are 5<sup>th</sup> cousins, both born and raised in Harrison Co. We were born in the same hospital, went to the same schools at different times but didn't meet until we were both in our twenties and had no idea of a family connection. I decided that 'one day' I would seriously begin searching for our roots. That day didn't come until we both retired. How I wish I had started before our parents were gone."

Sometimes it's the discovery of old family materials such as photos or documents that get people started searching for more.

Ethel **NIELSEN** "got the bug many years ago" from a family reunion photo on the wall at her grandparents house. "I could never understand why both my grandfathers were in that photo. I inherited the photograph. My curiosity had to be satisfied. It took me many years to get my surprising answer: Both families descended from Adam **ASH**, who settled on Gregory Run around 1792. After that puzzle was solved, I continued my research."

Linn **BAIKER** had her interest tweaked when she inherited a large box of old pictures from her aunt. "Although my interest began then, my active pursuit didn't begin until not long before I retired. Many of the pictures in the box were tintypes and none of them had identification, except for a non-family person. Also in the box was a page apparently ripped from a bible that had dates and some deaths of my aunt's grandparents and their eleven children. I knew there must be many cousins out there."

When Ruby **CASTO** asked her 16-year old son what his grandmother's maiden name was and he didn't know, she told him when she got through with him, he would know. "My mother was still living and she told me all she knew about both sides of the family. My husband and I sat his parents down and interviewed them for a few hours about their families and it has just taken off from there."

George and Nancy **RUPP** got started looking for ancestors when their granddaughter's Brownies Troop took a trip to the Family History Center in Mesa AZ. "My wife went with them to help watch the kids and my wife found some of her ancestors. We became friends with the Troop leader. She belonged to the Arizona Genealogy Society. We joined the society also. I was helping my wife with the computer side and I got hooked and we have been doing genealogy ever since. I tell people it's like eating a potato chip. You can not eat just one chip and you can not find just one ancestor."



Barbara **EDKIN** took a computer class with her mother in the 1960s, attended an Elderhostel in Salt Lake City where she spent "many wonderful hours in the library," and things snowballed from there. "I found the companionship of other genealogists to be encouraging and kept me going. Nice to be around people whose eyes don't glaze over when I mention what I have found or eliminated. I continued taking classes, worked as a docent in the Contra Costa County Heritage Collection and served with the California State Genealogical Society. I have a very extensive personal library, and all in the family know I will come back and haunt them if the library is not donated to any of the groups I belong to.

Among the reasons that Kay and Darrell **GROVES** started searching the family tree was their son's degenerative neuro-muscular disease. "It is supposed to be genetic. I wanted to find others in our lines who have had similar problems."

Ronda **RIFFLE** decided to do some family history study when she had a grandchild. "What occurred to me was that since this child would never have the opportunity to meet our parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts or cousins, I would write a brief note about each member of my family and that of my husband's family. My idea was to tuck these notes and pictures in individual envelopes, tie them with a ribbon and place them all in a drawer until our first grandchild, and those grandchildren to come, had reached a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then I would take out the envelopes and introduce each child to those people who meant so much to us when we were growing into adulthood. Curiosity made me question from what countries did our ancestors come? When did they arrive in America? Where did they first live? What did they do? At present, I have 16,000-plus persons related to the "grands."

Joanne **STEEL** began working as an archivist in the Washington Co. Court House and one of her first jobs was to clean the oldest tax records. "I started alphabetically, and in Amwell Twp., I kept finding my husband's family name. Then I found a probate record from 1803 on another side of the family. We moved to Virginia about 20 years ago, but before I left, I had copied every known source of information available."

Lillian **DODD** went with her brother and sister to the WV Archives and History Library during a tour of the Capitol, and before they left had found the Civil War record of a great-grandfather and a great-grandfather's will. "That was 1982. From then until I retired in 1985, I spent nearly every lunch hour, many evenings and weekends in the stacks or microfilm room at the Center. After my retirement, I visited the DAR and National Archives in DC many times, searched court

house records in VA and MD, the LDS Stack in Kanawha and tromped the hills, particularly of Calhoun, Gilmer, Kanawha and Putnam Counties, looking for and taking pictures of graves. I have 34,000 plus names and proof of most of my and my husband's families back at least five generations."

Betty Ann **NICHOLSON** got interested in genealogy when a friend who had been doing genealogy for many years told her that she really needed to begin doing her family history. "She handed me a group sheet and an ancestry chart and, as they say, 'the rest is history.' I began hanging out at the HCPD Library where numerous volunteers got me started on the right path. The most exciting thing that has happened in doing my research was locating and contacting my half-sister. We had been separated for 42 years. I also now have two nieces and a nephew that I had not known before and five great-nephews and nieces."

Leading others into the world of genealogy has its own kind of satisfaction, according to Lyle **CORDER**, who has discovered the joy of helping others trace their families back in time.

"I enjoy hearing them say WOW! And while working on so many other names, you begin to get a feeling about the history of the area of North Central WV. You simply can't get this feeling if you stick to your families only."

The replies from the HCPD on-line members included regrets often heard from genealogists—starting to explore family history too late. .not documenting the early research. .not listening to the older generations when they talk about family history. .and .not remembering what they did hear.



## **LEWIS COUNTY CONNECTIONS**

### **And a World War II Love Story**

By Diane Hill ZIMMERMAN

Note: Continued from Volume XXIV, Issue 3.

Sgt. H.L. **ARBOGAST** 15320658

Sqdn I-1, Grp. C. Bks. 243

H.A.A.F. Harlingen, Texas

Mrs. Lois **ARBOGAST**

631 Drummond St.

Clarksburg, W.Va.

June 1, 1945

Dearest Lois: A few lines to let you know we arrived OK. We got in last nite about 6, but by the time we got settled it was too late to write. Did you get a seat all the way [on the train]? Honey it's sure nice to have you with me but I'm glad I didn't bring you here. Bob and Kay found a place at a tourist camp and only have to pay \$4.50 per week but Bob said it was pretty crummy. You can hardly find a place in town. We won't get any time off here. The passes are only good till 11:30 except for men living in town, they have to be in by 7 every morning.

Honey this is the nicest base I've been on yet. The barracks are nice and clean and they have the nicest lawns you'd want to see. Roses and palm trees are everywhere. But chicken s--- I [Strict Army rules and regs] Boy there's certainly plenty of that.

We may have to wait quite a while to get in school and in the meantime we have to pull detail and KP. We take PT twice a day and drill two hours. We get up at 5:20 and have roll call at 5:30 each morning. Once we get placed in school it won't be bad. I'm not sure yet but I think the course is only four weeks. Yes, I guess we'll be on the extra heavies as this is a B29 school now.

Honey it's about ten degrees hotter than hell here. Did you notice the spots on the letter? Well those aren't tear drops, but

sweat. The sweat is just pouring off on all sides. You lay in the sack here and sweat all nite.

They can give this country back to the Mexicans. Well, I'll write more tomorrow. Take good care of my baby. Love, Harold P.S. Tell mom hello for me.

June 5, 1945

Dearest Lois...I'll bet it's pretty nice to be home even though I'm not there isn't it? Gosh honey, I'd give a million bucks to be there with you. Don't ask me where I'd get the million. I'd use play money of course!

It's so hot here sweat runs in my eyes and wakes me up two or three times every nite. The pillow and mattress is soaked with sweat every morning and we have to hang them out to air and dry out. Honey, I can't give you the score on this place yet. It seems like every gunner in the country is here. The ones of us that have had our transition get in school first so let's hope it don't take long....All My Love, Harold

June 6, 1945

Dearest Lois...I spend all my spare time in the swimming pool. Talk about a sun tan! I'll be as brown as any Mexican if I stay here long. I haven't gone fishing yet but I'm going the first chance I get. Has Audey [his brother] been fishing much? I owe him a letter and will try and get it off tonite.

Honey this sure is a funny country here. The soil is about all under cultivation and is watered by irrigation. They raise melons, cotton, tomatoes sweet corn, etc. The melons are ripe and everywhere you look there's a melon stand. The tomatoes are about all gone. It's more like late summer up home. There's orange and grapefruit groves everywhere too....I love you and miss you an awful lot, Harold

June 8, 1945

My Dearest Lois,...I received two letters from you today and Boy! Was I tickled to get them. Seems like a year since we parted. Honey I miss you so much when we're apart and can't figure out why we ever quarrel when we're together.

I sure wish you didn't have to work, especially nights. They'll probably try to make a slave out of you too.

Honey, they really have us guessing here now. They said yesterday that if we didn't start to school within a couple weeks they were going to give us furloughs. Now a furlough is the nicest thing I could think of but it's a hell of a ways home from here and I won't have dough enough. Bob said I could ride up to San Antonio with him so maybe I can hitch hike from there. Down here you can hardly hitch a ride at all. I won't know for sure for a few days and I'll keep you posted blow by blow.

Yes, I think B29's will be quite a bit different from B17's but I don't mind. I won't fly on 29s here. They have 24s fixed up with remote controlled turrets and we'll train on them. I never wanted to have to fly on a B24 but it looks like I'll have to. The course here takes six weeks. B29 transition takes 4 months so we'll have that much time to look forward to being together. Tell the folks all hello for me. All my love, Pa

June 15, 1945

Dearest Lois...Your letters are the only thing to look forward to here. They're fixing to put the shaft to a bunch of us here. They looked up our records and are going to put us to work at our old trades till we get placed in school. They called me before the mess officer yesterday and he told me to report for work at noon today as a cook but I didn't go. I don't know how long I can goof off but I'm not going till they make me. My furlough should come up in a week or so, so maybe they can't kill me by that time. All my love, Pa.

June 16, 1945

My Dearest Lois...We're having a big field meet here today. Sure is too damn hot to do much running.

Honey I got out of that cooking deal this morning. They sent for me to come to work and I went to the Chaplin instead. How about that? Don't you think I'm getting chicken? I went to my C.O. and every one else first and couldn't do any good. The Chaplin was my last resort. I told him I'd go over the hill before I'd cook again so he got me off. Good deal.

The things you sent got here today. Thanks a lot. I didn't get a letter though. I got two yesterday and I guess that's the

reason. Say baby, where the hell did you get that button you put on the shirt pocket? Did you rob someone's overcoat?  
All my love, Pa

June 17, 1945

My Dearest Lois...I'm at the U.S.O. in San Bonito a little Mexican town between Harlingen and Brownsville. It's really a nice little town and I sure wish you could see it. There isn't one tree around here that I recognize. There are two or three kinds of palms, all kinds of citrus and about a dozen others with fruit and berries I never saw before. I should have my fishing tackle here today. The town water supply reservoir is right in front of the U.S.O. and I've been watching fish jumping. Big ones too. They say Gars are chasing them. The Gars here weigh a hundred pounds or more.

Bob said yesterday he and Kay and I would go to the coast and go swimming before long. I hope it's next Sun. for there isn't a damn thing to do here.

I hope I get back to West by God Virginia before long. I think you and I can find something to do. I love you honey and miss you an awful lot. Just keep loving me and maybe some day this old horse s--- will cease and we can be together for good. Tell the folks hello for me.

I Love You Much, Harold

June 19, 1945

My Dearest Lois,... Well honey we're getting that rain we've been needing here so long. It sprinkled a little this morning and finally got going good. We're getting a nice little rain right now. They have beautiful lawns here and they were turning pretty brown but they will be nice and green now. We're getting passes to Mexico tomorrow but I'm not going over. I don't have that kind of dough. I'll take the pass though and go into town or maybe go home with Bob for they are good from 8 in the morning till 11:30 tomorrow nite so that will keep me off detail.

Sometime when I'm in better shape financially I'll go over and get your water jug and maybe some Mexican rugs. I really like Mex. food. You even get hot peppers and tomatoes with bacon and eggs. How about that?

Honey I think there's a good chance of me getting a furlough next week and I sure hope so.  
All my love, Pa

June 21, 1945

My Dearest Lois...I sure wish you could have been with us yesterday. Kay liked to run herself silly in those damn Mex shops. I looked all over for one of those water jugs but couldn't find one. I may be able to get one later though. Kay had a couple Tom Collins. They're really cheap and Tequila was only a dime a shot.

Honey I sure was wanting to get home while trout season was open but it doesn't look so good right now. If I don't make it you and I can go fishing when I get home. Fishing around here is poor. I was out a couple times but didn't catch a thing.  
All my love, Pa

June 25, 1945

My Dearest Lois... I just came off KP and I'm a little tired but I'm feeling mighty good anyway. The furlough list came out today and I'm the first one on it. We'll leave here a week from tomorrow (July 3) I'm sure anxious to see my baby.

I got two swell letters from you today. I sure would like to see Lowell but I won't make it in time. Tell him I said hello and to take it easy.

Honey I'm glad you got a doctor for mom. At her age you can't tell what might be wrong. I sure hope she's well by now.

I wonder if Charley's car is in shape for a trip to the mountains? I sure would like to fish the South Branch a couple of days. I want to see you catch a rainbow....

Now don't you work too hard. I want you to kinda get in shape for the ordeal....All my love, Harold

June 26, 1945

My Dearest Lois...Well it's as hot and dry as ever here. They haven't opened the pool yet....A fellow just came in and said the furloughs were canceled....Just last night we were in the orderly room getting our furloughs fixed up and now they come out with this. I sure was wanting to get home while the trout

season was in but that's all settled now. It won't be too bad if we'd only get in school right away for then we'd know it wouldn't be long till we could be together but I don't know when I'll get to go to school. The reason we weren't placed in school before was that they wanted to give us furloughs first but now we're really getting screwed....

Well the eagle is supposed to fly over today but I'm afraid he'll just keep going so far as a lot of us are concerned. The ones that were on the furlough list didn't get to sign the payroll. They said we wouldn't be here for payday anyway but since we got shafted I'm glad I have the money you sent me. I'll have to use it till I get paid. Your Pissed Off, Pa

July 2, 1945

My Dearest Lois....I got the letter today that you wrote after I told you for sure I was coming home. It made me feel kinda bad all over again for I was supposed to be starting home tomorrow.

Well honey I'm in school now so I can give you the latest poop from the group. That is I'm processing this week and the schooling really starts next week or possibly not till the week after, but I know I'll be out of here either the 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of August. I'll get a delay out of here then will have to report to Lincoln to be crewed up again. Then will have to go through B29 OTV and then baby me and you can be together again.

Well I really had a good swim yesterday. A couple of fellows and I went to Port Isabel and took a boat out to Padre Island and went swimming in the surf. It's really a lot of fun too. We'd go out as far as we could then ride the swells back. They have a nice beach there too. I picked up a lot of shells and I'm going to try to make you a necklace.

I got to fish some too. A couple fellows were casting in the surf and I went out to watch them. One of them offered me his rod and you know what my reactions were. I caught one fish, a saltwater cat. They look just like those channel cats you caught at Ardmore and it wasn't much bigger. They had some redfish and they also caught a couple small sharks. Honey when you see Audey have him send my bait casting rod will you? Just send my Hawaiian Wiggler, Jitterbug and \_\_\_\_\_ vamp. I'm



going down and try casting in the surf. I'll probably end up by losing all my line on a shark or something big, but I'll at least be able to tell a big tale about it.

Tell horse face [Louise] hello for me when you see her again. I'm glad she had such good luck. [Janet was born] I love you, Harold

July 5, 1945

My Dearest Lois... I hope mom is feeling herself again. How is Horse-face and her brat doing?

Well I got my new choppers yesterday. It's a partial plate with three teeth and I'm sure it will improve my Pepsodent smile. It feels awkward now but I'll soon get used to it. I've been going to school nights studying Spanish and you should have heard me last night. I couldn't even speak English. I wanted to study Salesmanship or take a business course but I won't be here long enough to finish it. The Spanish course only lasts 6 weeks.

It's nice that they gave you a raise so soon but I'm not surprised for you're the best little worker in the world.

Honey the cigarette situation here is much worse than at Ardmore but I'll see what I can do. I'll get me some makin's in town and send my next weeks rations (16 packs). I sure don't want you smoking that damned old cutty pipe....

All my love, Harold

(Postcard with picture of bullfight)

Hi Honey, Well here I am in the land of sunshine but it's liquid. Bob, Kay and I just came over and it started right in raining. I'll write more tonite. Love, Harold

July 7, 1945

My Dearest Lois...I just came in from a parade. They were decorating some GIs and had about four thousand of us out parading. It might have looked good to the spectators but it was a damn hot job on us. We stood at attention for about an hour.

We're really going to have a busy day today. We have to move again this afternoon. We're moving to a school Sqdn.

this time and will start to school Monday. You can start marking off the weeks now. Six of them and Ill get to come home.

Honey Ill beg, borrow and steal all the cigarettes I can and try to send a carton Mon. I don't want you having to smoke that old stuff. If I can't raise an extra carton Ill quit smoking myself and send you my ration. I doubt if I can find Kools though. I haven't seen them since I came down here. Take care of my sweet baby and keep loving me. Harold

**DIANE:** My Mom and I spent most of the war years living across the street from Dad's parents, Cecil and Wanda **BOGGESS HILL**, on Kern Avenue in Clarksburg. Finally, the long, long war was over and Dad and all my uncles came home safely. Dads brother, Ralph, was also in the Navy as was their sister Barbara's husband, Bob **BRACKEN**, who was an officer. In addition to Harold, Harley and Lowell, my Uncle Golden, Grandpa **SMITH'S** younger brother, was in the Army. We could hardly wait to visit and see for ourselves that they were really okay.

I can still remember the electric excitement each time a serviceman from a home on the block was expected and all rejoiced with the lucky ones who got their soldier or sailor back. I was sheltered from any bad news from the front so don't recall any who didn't make it home. We were very fortunate not to have lost one or more from the family. None were even wounded.

It was like we had come out of hibernation after a long hard winter. Collectively, all gave a sigh of relief, rolled up their sleeves and went to work rebuilding the country. The air practically vibrated with excitement as families got on with lives that had been on hold for too long.

The war in Europe ended before Uncle Harold could be trained on B17s and they didn't have the range for Japan so he was switched to B29s. Before he could go on any missions the war with Japan was over and he was sent back to Scott Field

The war with Japan ended in August 1945 but he didn't get home until February 18, 1946, the last one in the family to be mustered out. A certain number of points was needed before

you could be discharged. In the Army Air Force no points were given for a wife but the first child was twelve points so Harold had to stay in longer. Harley had been in Brazil and, as he had kids, he got home in September 1945. In the Navy a wife did count but kids didn't so my dad still got out right away. At the end of the war they had been drafting men with big families.

Before Harold left for the service he put his car up on blocks to save the tires but Lois' father had to take the tires for his car so he'd be able to work. When Harold got home he had to find tires before they could do anything. They were very scarce, along with about everything else.

During the war shoes, butter, meat, sugar, nylon stockings, cigarettes and lots of other things were rationed. Most members of the family smoked or used tobacco in one form or another. Cigarettes were sent overseas for the servicemen, so when Uncle Harold was stationed in Texas he'd go to Mexico and buy them. He sent several cartons of Mexican cigarettes which was appreciated but weren't very good. At that time most people smoked. There was so much tension during the Depression and then the war and the dangers weren't recognized yet.

When the men came home after the war they wanted to eat fresh eggs and drink fresh milk because they'd had powdered stuff for so long. Harold bought a dozen eggs, boiled them and ate every one. Dad's brother, Ralph, was in the Navy on a ship in the South Pacific for a couple of years. He craved fresh milk, after years of drinking powdered, so as soon as he got home he drank a gallon of fresh, cold milk

*Continued in Vol. XXV, Issue 1.*

# **Thomas BARTLETT**

## **c1703-1783**

### **of Richmond Co, VA**

**by James BARTLETT**

#### The Plantation

In 1742 Thomas  
**BARTLETT**, of  
Lunenburg Parish,  
bought 110 acres of  
land from Edward  
**EIDSON** and William  
**JORDAN** for "Sixty  
Pounds Current  
Money of Virginia".

Future map of Richmond  
County in 1742, with star at  
Newland, VA

This land adjoined the lands of **EIDSON**, William **LEWIS** and heirs of James **WILLSON**, deceased. Note that Edward **EIDSON** in this deed was the son of Edward **EIDSON**, Sr., and that William **JORDAN** was the senior **EIDSON'S** friend and co-executor of his will. The location of this land is defined in four separate deeds – the purchased deed in 1742\*; a survey for the **EIDSONS** in 1745\*; a subsequent **FAUNTLEROY** deed in 1776\* which noted his land was adjacent to that of Thomas **BARTLETT**; and the 1788 deed\* in which son John **BARTLETT** sold the Plantation back to the **EIDSONS**<sup>1</sup>. The later deeds added to our list of neighbors: John **MARKS**, who probably married Hannah **EIDSON**, daughter to Edward **EIDSON**; and Joseph **EIDSON**, another son of Edward **EIDSON**. The 110 acres was along the "Main Road", which was the east-west road through Richmond County. It was also along the road to Naylor's Hole. On a present day map, Thomas **BARTLETT'S** Plantation would be on the west side of Route 624, which is probably very close to the same location as the 1742 "Main Road"; and on the south side of Route 638,

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<sup>1</sup> See extracts of all four deeds in the Appendix





which is probably the same location as the road to "Naylors' Hole", which intersection marks the town of Newland, VA. Naylor's Hole was located near the Rappahannock River, southwest of Newland.

The timing of this deed is very interesting. From the discussion above about Thomas's second marriage to Catherine in the early 1740s, it appears he may have bought this land around the same time he married Catherine. Since the land is located among three sons and a daughter of Edward **EIDSON**, this is a strong indication that Catherine may have been a daughter of Edward **EIDSON**. It would make sense for the **EIDSON** family to sell land to Thomas **BARTLETT**, and have the family living on adjacent plantations. Edward **EIDSON'S** son, John **EIDSON** 1717-1774, had a daughter, Caty. Although she was much too young, it does show Catherine as a name in the **EIDSON** family.

#### *Life in Richmond County*

There are several records that provide an insight on Thomas **BARTLETT'S** life in Richmond County:

Thomas had a servant man (Thomas **WILSON**) in 1729\*. This indicates Thomas was not part of the lowest class of people living in the Northern Neck of Colonial Virginia at that time. Clearly he was also not part of the upper class, either. He was a farmer<sup>2</sup>.

Thomas was listed on the 1744, 1746 and 1751 Rental Rolls in Lunenburg Parish, Richmond County\*. This indicates he was still renting land, probably the land he lived on from the 1720s until he bought the 110 acres in 1742.

During the 1740s and 50s Thomas witnessed various documents, was on several election lists, and served as a Juror. Although he always signed with an "X", indicating he couldn't write, he was clearly a man of responsibility. I have

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<sup>2</sup> See the article in the Appendix about the Classes of People in Richmond County, Virginia

found no records of him holding any public office, or any other assignment, such as surveying roads, etc.

### *Brother James*

In 1747 James **BARTLETT** wrote "a will" in Richmond County. He named his wife, Mary, and his brother, Thomas **BARTLETT**, as executors. Thomas **BARTLETT** Sr. had sons James and Thomas, Jr. who were brothers, but Thomas named his son James in his 1767 will. So clearly the James who died in 1747 must be an older generation and his brother is Thomas **BARTLETT** Sr. born c1703. James also noted his children, but did not name them in his will. I have not found any other record of the James **BARTLETT** family in Richmond County. There is a note (somewhere) that indicates James's widow, Mary, may have remarried and moved away from Richmond County, probably with her **BARTLETT** children. This indicates at least the two brothers, James and Thomas **BARTLETT**, Sr. were living in Richmond County in the 1740s.

This 1747 will is also important because of the three witnesses: Henry **SETTLE**, Thomas **BARTLETT**, Jr, and William **BARTLETT**. Henry **SETTLE** was born c1700, and was the father of Anne **SETTLE** who married c1748 John **BARTLETT**, the son of Thomas **BARTLETT**, Sr. Henry **SETTLE** is in several records\* with Thomas **BARTLETT** and it is clear they were friends. Thomas **BARTLETT**, Jr. was the son of Thomas **BARTLETT** c1703, and he was born c1732. It is not clear who William **BARTLETT** is, or whether he is the same generation as brothers James and Thomas **BARTLETT** and Henry **SETTLE** – all born in the very early 1700s – or whether he is in a younger generation – perhaps roughly the same age as Thomas **BARTLETT** Jr. I have not found any other records of William **BARTLETT** in Richmond County, but if the witnesses signed in order of age, then William **BARTLETT** would have been younger than Thomas **BARTLETT** Jr who was about 15 years old. It was a common custom of that time to have young men witness a legal



document when they first came of age – sort of a sign that they were ready to accept responsibility. In Colonial Virginia, males could witness a document at age 14. So perhaps William **BARTLETT** was just 14 years old, or born in 1733. He could have been a son of Thomas **BARTLETT** c1703, and died before 1767 (because he was not named in the will); or he could have been one of James **BARTLETT'S** children.

Another important clue in this 1747 will is that this is the only record that proves Thomas **BARTLETT** Jr. was in Richmond County until at least 1747. It also provides an upper bound on Thomas **BARTLETT**, Jr's birth year – he had to be at least 14 years old, so he was born in 1733 or earlier.

#### 1767 Will of Thomas **BARTLETT**

Thomas **BARTLETT** wrote and signed (with an "X") his will on December 6, 1767\*. He named his wife Catherine, and this is the only known record of Catherine, during Thomas' lifetime. Thomas also named his children, apparently in birth order for the sons and then for the daughters. All of the daughters were listed with their married names indicating most, if not all, of his children were married. There is no mention of any deceased children or any grandchildren, as was generally the custom if a child had died and left children. So we can assume the nine named children were the only ones who had survived to 1767, or who died before 1767 and left children.

Thomas **BARTLETT** named his wife and "son" Charles **JONES** as executors. Clearly he meant his son-in-law Charles **JONES**. However the will was presented to the Court in Richmond County in 1783 by his son James **BARTLETT**. Catherine is in a Richmond County record in 1788, so she was alive in 1783. She probably requested James to be the executor, for some reason. Charles **JONES** may have died, or was very sick by 1783.

The will was witnessed by John **EIDSON**; Dan'l **JACKSON**, Morton **WILSON** and Christopher **COLLINS**. Typically at least one, and often the first, of the witnessed was related to the wife, Catherine, in this case. See the discussion about Catherine's maiden name.

The will was not probated until 1783, which indicates Thomas may have survived well beyond 1767. It was presented by son James **BARTLETT**, indicating James was still alive in 1783 and able to return to Richmond County.

*When did Thomas **BARTLETT** die?*

Although Thomas **BARTLETT** wrote his will in 1767, it was not presented to the Court and probated until 1783, indicating Thomas may have lived well beyond the date of his will. Thomas **BARTLETT** is listed on the Richmond County 1771 Election Polls, and he is mentioned in a 1776 deed as owning an adjacent piece of land. This indicates that Thomas lived at least 9 years after he wrote his will, so I have assumed that he probably lived to 1783, just before his will was probated. Since he is not in other records after 1776, this may indicate that he was inactive – perhaps feeble or in poor health.

To be continued in HCJ XXV, Issue 1

# HCPD & FGS NAME LOLITA THAYER GUTHRIE AS AWARD WINNER

Lolita THAYER  
GUTHRIE was selected as the  
2006 winner of HCPD's  
Margaret Hacker Award in  
August; a month later, she was  
honored by the Federation of  
Genealogical Societies as the  
2006 inductee into the Ruth C.

BISHOP Volunteer Hall of Honor.

The Margaret Hacker Award recognizes significant contributions to preserve and share the history and/or genealogy of the Central West Virginia area performed by a female on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

Lolita is a Charter Member and a Life Member of HCPD. She joined in October 1982 just days after the organization's first meeting. From 1983 through 1988, with help from her friends at the Wood County, Ohio, Genealogical Society, she assisted with editing and facilitated the printing and collating of the Hacker's Creek Journal in Bowling Green, Ohio; After printing, she sent them on their way to West Virginia for mailing to members.

In later years, she purchased the microfilm for several years (1930s) of the *Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram*, then abstracted the Wilbur MORRISON columns from the 1930s Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram, prepared them for publication and facilitated the same as a benefit to HCPD. The last of the three volume series, "Family Stories and Bible Records," was received in time to sell at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering.

Lolita's West(ern) Virginia ancestors, Alexander and Nancy Ann (SMITH) SLEETH, migrated to what is now Shelby County, IN, in 1802. Alexander SLEETH was the son of John SLEETH (1727-1794) and Mary Ann WALLACE, while Nancy



Ann **SMITH** was the daughter of David **SMITH** (1741-1835) and Lydia **BALL** (b. 1754). From Alexander and Nancy, Lolita's roots were firmly planted in Indiana soil.

Lolita, a Hoosier native, met her husband, Mearl **GUTHRIE** of Abilene, Kansas, while he served in the U.S. Army and attended specialized training at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana early in World War II. On 21 June 2006, they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

After a few years as an elementary school teacher, Lolita chose to be a stay-at-home Mom. During this time, she served in volunteer leadership roles for the First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Maumee Valley Presbytery, the local Hospital Guild, as well as state and local history organizations.

Mearl is a Professor Emeritus of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio and was recently recognized as one of 100 "Distinguished Alumni of the College of Education and Human Development of the University of Minnesota." They have two children, Scott who works for Bowling Green University on the Computer Security Staff and Carla **HALL**, who resides in Dublin, Ohio. She is a Staff Consultant-Database Administrator for Verizon. Carla's daughter, Julie **SPANNER**, is a Civil Engineer and lives in Walbridge, Ohio.

Lolita's interest in genealogical research and cemetery preservation has occupied most of her adult life.

Her activities on behalf of HCPD have been a very small part of her work. She volunteers thirty to forty hours of her time every week to the local Wood County OGS chapter. She originated many projects and remains the force behind these to encourage members and non-members of the society to become involved.

Lolita's involvement with the Ohio Genealogical Society began innocently enough when she started riding to Mansfield with a board member friend to do research on days of Board meetings in 1990. She soon accepted an appointment as OGS Cemetery Committee Chairperson. It took thirteen years, but under her leadership, the Cemetery Committee completely overhauled the information in two

previous OGS cemetery books and in 2003 published *Ohio Cemeteries 1803-2003*, with information on over 14,600 cemeteries and burial sites throughout the state. In 1993, she served her first term on the OGS Board of Trustees, continuing since that time. Having chosen to "retire" earlier this year, she promised to remain active on the OGS Cemetery Committee.

Currently Lolita is president of the Wood County OGS Chapter and Projects Coordinator, working closely with the newsletter editor and she proofreads every edition. She has made many contributions to the Guthrie family history.

Lolita developed a phenomenal relationship with the Wood County Commissioners and local and state government officials. In 1993, Governor George VOINOVICH appointed her as an original member of the board of the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Committee. She has helped to change cemetery registration laws for townships in Ohio. Her expertise is appreciated by those with whom she works.

The Ohio Genealogical Society recognized her service and announces Lolita's service to it and for her continuing efforts for preservation of cemetery records and to the state of Ohio.

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## DELAYED OBITUARY

Betty Lou MARSH, 83, of Rayne, La., died on Thursday, March 10, 2005, at her residence. Betty was the widow of William A. MARSH, the compiler of the hard-backed published version of the 1880 West Virginia Census.

She is survived by four sons and spouses, John and Marilyn MARSH of Albuquerque, N.M., Thomas and Cindy MARSH of Cape Gerardeau, Mo., Bruce MARSH of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Noel and Evette MARSH of Rayne, La.; three daughters and spouses, Liese and Bob QUIBODEAUX of Egan, La., Anita MCCULEY of San Antonio, Texas, and Laurie and Scott WILLIAMS of Campwood, Texas; two brothers, William EVANS of Landover, Md. and Robert EVANS of New Jersey; 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was interred at Bluemont Cemetery, Grafton, WV.

## **Randall Nicholson Receives John Hacker Award**

This year Randall NICHOLSON was selected for the highest recognition HCPD can give to a male member, the John Hacker Award.

This award recognizes significant contributions to preserve and share the history and/or genealogy of the Central West Virginia area performed by a male on behalf of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants. Crafted in its entirety in Central West Virginia, the physical award is a mouth-blown glass ball which represents the wholeness and unselfishness of an individual's contributions on behalf of HCPD to the world. The ball is suspended by a golden thread from a handmade oak stand. The golden thread represents the connection our members have to each other and to the world.

There is nothing Randall likes better than a practical joke – and especially when he can play one on the presenter of this year's awards, Joy Stalnaker. This time, she turned the tide on him.

Knowing that Randall was going to be the recipient of this delicate glass ball known as the John Hacker Award, she prepared her revenge and acquired a handful of glass shards from a local glass blower.

When it came time for the presentation, she describes Randall's contributions: he's always there when there is work to be done; he crawls through the attic to change filters in the furnaces and air conditioner; he paints and scraps; he has volunteered thousands of hours helping others with their genealogy; and, were he not here, we would have to hire a lot of things done, etc., etc..

Then, she handed him the wooden part of the award – minus the ball. And then, while trying to blush but not succeeding, she told him that she had broken his glass ball and handed him the handful of glass pieces. His eyes got big! His mouth fell open! His face turned red! He was SPEECHLESS. The moment was PRICELESS! There was a moment of silence. Then she reached behind herself and pulled out the unbroken glass bulb, presented it to him, and said, "Gotcha!" Of course, everyone roared with laughter! Randall graciously accepted the award and shared some of his genealogy background with the assembly.

# Genealogy????

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## QUERIES

1. I'm trying to locate graves for my mother's grandparents, Harrison and Margaret **CANFIELD**. Margaret would have died between 1897-1900 and Harrison just a few years later, but was still alive in 1900 census. I think they're buried either in Braxton or Nicholas county, but none of the surviving family knows where and I haven't been able to find anything at any online cemetery listings. Also may have young son Harry Jr. buried with them he was suppose to have died not long after Harrison. Any help would be appreciated. mar63ie@mail.ev1.net Beverly **ROUSE**, 909 Dimrock, Schertz, TX 78154

2. Rev. William **DAVIS** arrived from Radnor, Wales in 1684. Children by first wife Elizabeth **BRISLEY** (**BRINLEY**?) who died 1706 near Philadelphia, were: Martha 1688; Wm 1690; John 1692. Searching for any information on these families with a special interest in any connection to the William **DAVIS** (delegate from Simpson Church in 1777) with wife Jean. This **DAVIS** family is not a part of the Shrewsbury Group that arrived in 1789. Any help would be appreciated. Ethel **NIELSEN**, 25 Bridgewood, Irvine, CA 92604 or een10@juno.com

3. Henry **GLAZE** was b. 18 Jan 1804 and his entry in the 1850 Lewis Co. Census says he was born in OH. Where? Who are his parents? I cannot connect him to the George **GLAZE** of Wood Co., WV. Brown Co., OH is loaded with **GLAZE** surnames but no luck there either.

Henry married Sophia **MEANS** in 1826. Does anyone have this marriage record? She was born 11 May 1808, as d/o Robert **MEANS** and his 2nd wife, Mary **HENRY**. Henry and Sophia moved in 1856 to Reedy, Roane Co., to be closer to



their children. Is ANYONE working on this family? **GLAZE** has been my hardest family to research.

Joseph **BUTCHER** was born 19 Dec 1808, Harrison Co., WV, s/o John Anderson **BUTCHER** and Cristena "Tenie" **ALKIRE**. He married Eunice **FISHER** 13 Jan 1828, according to marriage bond. She was b. Jun 1810 (need specific date) in Harrison Co., d/o George **FISHER** and Elizabeth **CONRAD**.

Joseph **BUTCHER** died in 1846 Lewis Co., Does anyone have the exact date? Eunice married 2nd to Edmond **BADGETT** and they moved to Reedy, Roane Co. where her children lived. Is Joseph buried in the Butcher cemetery in Lewis Co? Bette **BUTCHER TOPP** - 1304 W. Cliffwood Court, Spokane, WA 99218-2917 email: [toppline@comcast.net](mailto:toppline@comcast.net) [509] 467-2299

4. Looking for information on the burial grounds for Marcelle Marie **WERY**. Stillborn on 6 March 1925. She was the dau of Pearl **FITZPATRICK WERY** and Charles **WERY**. She was born in Clarksburg, Harrison County W.VA. The attending Doctor was a W. T. **OWENS**, MD.

also: How were infant deaths like this handled in the 20's? Thanks. Carol **YAKUPCAK**, 11599 Hoover AVE NW, Unlontown OH 44685 [Teacross@aol.com](mailto:Teacross@aol.com)

5. James **STORTS**, son of George **STEORTS** and Eunice **BAILEY STALNAKER**, died in Jan. 1865 in a Federal Hospital after being captured and being in Libby Prison. He was buried in a Federal cemetery in NJ. Seeking further info, especially any possible marriage.

Linda **STEORTS KAUFMAN** 110 Ross Street, Bridgeport, WV 26330 [LSKwvhomes@aol.com](mailto:LSKwvhomes@aol.com)

6. **FORINASH** brick wall: Looking for parents and death and/or burial record of Mary Jane "Mollie" **FORINASH**. Born Aug 1866 in Upshur Co, WV (based on census and marriage record). Married Floyd Lee **SMITH** 23 Feb 1891 Braxton Co, WV. Had a child "Clyde **CURRY**" b. Apr 1883. Had **SMITH** children (all born Lewis Co, WV) Effie Lee (b. 9 Feb 1892), Lula M (b. 8

May 1893), Lena Blanche (b. 26 Apr 1896), Floyd Euel (b. 4 Oct 1898). Listed with husband and family in 1900 Collins Settlement Lewis Co Census. Died between June 1900 and November 1900. Please send any hints to Christina Smith Melnarik cccniles@sbcglobal.net 37316 Third Street Fremont CA 94536 510-793-3708.

7. MILLER brick wall: Looking for parents and death information of Gracie MILLER. Born c. 1844 in possibly Upshur Co, (W)V (based on marriage record). Married John Light SCOTT 14 jun 1865 in Upshur Co, WV. Had children Mary Ellen (b. c. 1866), Josephine (b. 1 Nov 1870 Upshur Co), Etty Florence (b. c. 1872 Randolph Co?). Died after 1910 in probably Upshur Co. Possibly appears in 1850 Census in Monongalia Co, VA with John A FAST household (his wife is the former Elizabeth MILLER). Possibly appears in 1860 census in Marion Co with VANGILDER family. Appears with husband John L SCOTT in 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 censuses in Upshur Co, WV. Please send any hints to Christina Smith Melnarik cccniles@sbcglobal.net 37316 Third Street Fremont CA 94536 510-793-3708.

8. I am trying to identify the parents of my maternal grandmother, Emma Myrtle **WESTFALL**, and her sister Ollie. Family lore says that Ollie and Emma were orphans of a "Dutch minister" and "an Indian". An Ollie B. **WESTFALL** born 1884 appears in the Hackers Creek District 1900 census as a servant to the Albert **KUNST** family. Ollie married James **MYRES** in 1907 in Harrison Co, and according to the marriage certificate she was born in Braxton Co. However, her 1921 death certificate says she was born 1875 in Ohio. 1910 and 1920 census data also shows her being born in Ohio but her age in the census agrees well with 1884. According to her death certificate her father's name was John Westfall, but her mother's name is unknown. Emma Myrtle is believed to have been born in Braxton Co in 1891. An Emma M. **WESTFALL** of the right age is shown in the Freeman's Creek district 1900 census living with her widowed mother, Mary. Emma is believed to have spent some time in the household of the

Judge William **BENNETT** family of Weston prior to her marriage to Earl Columbus **LESTER** in 1907 in Oakland Md. Any relevant information will be appreciated. Jim **JENDRO** 135 Kenwood Road Dracut, MA 01826 [jenwix@gmail.com](mailto:jenwix@gmail.com).



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Joe Teicheira  
The late Mrs. Byron J. Turner  
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Darrell & Hilda Warner  
Glea Waugh  
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Cary L. & Donna Williams  
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Wiseman  
Ella Virginia Wills  
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# HACKER'S CREEK

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